



Honorable Barbara Cegavske
Nevada State Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street, Suite 3
Carson City, NV 89701

October 14, 2021

Dear Secretary Barbara Cegavske,

We are writing on behalf of voters and community-led organizations committed to ensuring that elections are safe and accessible to all Nevada voters. On August 2, 2021, our organizations attended the Advisory Committee Meeting on Participatory Democracy and were informed that your office plans to update and consolidate all election guides into one manual ahead of next year's 2022 Midterm Election. We are aware that this manual will also provide guidance on the new voting laws that were signed into law during the 81st and 80th legislative sessions.

The significance of a statewide elections procedures manual must not be understated — the procedures in the manual have the power to protect or restrict the freedom to vote. Nevadans deserve opportunities to review and give feedback on the manual, as well as full transparency from your office on the process.

As this process moves forward, we ask that your office considers the following:

1) Promote civic engagement.

Ensure that the process is transparent, and we request that your office provides comprehensive background information and a timeline of the entire manual procedure to allow community members and advocates to provide public comment. This is not limited to making the process accessible to the public, including virtual meetings and phone conferences.

2) Fully inform and advise.

This includes providing enough notice about workshops being held, including “reasonable” time to review the changes being made based on feedback provided by the public.

3) Uphold state law.

Promote uniform voting access across all communities given the uniqueness of our state from rural to urban communities and embrace Nevada’s demographic diversity.

- Invest in language accessibility by ensuring Limited English Voters are informed about new voting changes, including a permanent vote by mail procedure from opting out to curing their mail ballot.
- Provide a guide to election officials on how voters with disabilities/and or elderly voters may vote using Nevada’s Effective Absentee System for Elections (EASE).

4) Restoration Rights and In Jail Voting.

- Add a section that provides guidance to the Department of Correction and the Department of Parole and Probation on informing previously incarcerated voters on their right to vote.
- Add a section setting uniform in-jail voting policy and procedures for all Nevada Sheriffs and election officials.

5) Nevada Tribal Nations.

Add a section into the manual that explicitly addresses Nevada Sovereign Nations’ voting rights to ensure tribal members have equal access to the ballot box.

- Information summarizing their rights, instructions on how to request a polling site or a dropbox inside the reservation.
- Specify that county clerks have discretionary authority to decide what to offer based on the tribes’ requests.

6) Manual Access.

- This newly updated manual should be available and accessible to the public on your office’s website and all 17 election official county websites.

While this is a general list, we look forward to providing more feedback to your office.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for your dedicated leadership and your continued commitment to helping ensure elections are safe and accessible to all Nevada voters. We know

your team is working diligently to ensure that next year's elections are being held in a successful manner. We welcome you to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance to your office.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, you can reach me by calling 775-225-9135.

Sincerely,

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